United
Nations

EP

Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/GC.17/5/Add.5
26 April 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Seventeenth session
Nairobi, 10-21 May 1993

ITEM 7:* PROGRAMME MATTERS, INCLUDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING ON THE WORLD CLIMATE PROGRAMME

Report of the Executive Director

Summary

In accordance with resolution 12 (Cg-XI) of the Eleventh World Meteorological Congress (Geneva, 1-23 May 1991) concerning the World Climate Programme (WCP) and its coordination, and with Governing Council decision 16/41, section IV, paragraph 2(d) of 31 May 1991, an Intergovernmental Meeting on the World Climate Programme was convened in Geneva from 14 to 16 April 1993. The Meeting had the tasks of reviewing the means of coordinating the WCP and of considering appropriate means for the provision of adequate resources for the WCP and its associated activities, such as the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS). The present report describes the recommendations of the Meeting, as contained in its adopted Statement on the Climate Agenda.

Suggested action by the Governing Council

The Governing Council may wish to note the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Meeting on the World Climate Programme concerning coordination and resources for the Programme, and to take action, in cooperation with the Executive Boards/Councils of the international organizations concerned with the World Climate Programme and its associated activities, to ensure the preparation of an integrated proposal, to be presented to Governments, comprising those parts of their respective programmes that are relevant to climate, along the lines of the four new thrusts identified.

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* Refers to the number of the item on the Provisional Agenda (UNEP/GC.17/1).

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING ON THE WORLD CLIMATE PROGRAMME

1. The Meeting was convened in Geneva from 14-16 April 1993 and was attended by 310 delegates from 135 countries and 70 experts representing 38 intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations.

2. The participants generally endorsed the proposed four main thrusts of the World Climate Programme (WCP) and its associated activities aimed at achieving future progress and benefits. The four thrusts are:

- Climate services for sustainable development;
- New frontiers in climate science and prediction;
- Dedicated observations of the climate system;
- Studies of climate impact assessments and response strategies to reduce vulnerability.

3. At the Meeting, it was agreed that, in order to improve the efficiency of the overall global climate effort, it was essential for the appropriate international organizations to integrate fully their climate-related programmes. To that end, the participants made recommendations for greater integration and prioritization, including a call for the Executive Boards/Councils of the international organizations concerned with the WCP to take the following action, as specified in the adopted Statement on the Climate agenda:

- Prepare an integrated proposal, to be presented to Governments, comprising those parts of their respective programmes that are relevant to climate, along the lines of the four new thrusts identified;
- Ensure that the proposal includes critical reviews of existing coordinating mechanisms and recommends, where appropriate, an improvement in those, leading to more efficient planning, design and implementation of the workplan;
- Ensure that the proposal also includes reviews of the resource requirements of the relevant international programmes and contains comprehensive budget proposals (with different options) for an integrated programme and a coordinated plan for requesting funds from Governments;
- Ensure that the proposal explains how the output of the WCP will meet the requirements of different users, such as those concerning the social and economic activities of the countries, those of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Commission on Sustainable Development;
- Charge the Coordinating Committee for the WCP, broadened, as appropriate, to cover all associated activities and assisted by outside consultants, with developing an overview and prioritized plan for the integrated proposal;
- Arrange for the preparation, on a biennial basis, of a coordinated, integrated report on the progress made in the tasks outlined in the present paragraph 3, as well as on the progress of work in the areas of the four new thrusts.

4. In addition, Executive Boards/Councils of the international organizations concerned are recommended, collectively, under the leadership of the World Meteorological Organization:

(a) To establish, on an interim basis, an Advisory Panel, drawn from their members, which will:

- Advise on, and provide guidance for all aspects of the preparation of the integrated proposal, as referred to above, taking into account the above recommendations of the Intergovernmental Meeting;

- Have balanced regional representation;

- Function in a clear and open manner;

- Report regularly to the Executive Boards/Councils on the panel's assessment of the progress made in developing the integrated proposal; and

(b) To examine the need for another intergovernmental meeting after some time in order to review the progress made.

5. Governments are encouraged to facilitate the coordination of their national plans by meeting informally from time to time in response to the integrated proposal for the WCP and its associated activities, as referred to above.

6. The preparation of an integrated presentation for Governments will require resources for secretariat and, possibly, specialist commissioned assistance. Furthermore, some elements of the integrated proposal require continued resources to support further work to complete their programme planning, in particular the work of the Joint Planning Office for GCOS. It is recommended that countries and the sponsoring organizations support those activities as being essential to the completion of the integrated proposal.